



# Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

## Ogdensburg, NY

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Ogdensburg was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Ogdensburg (population 12,364) has not shared in the economic gains enjoyed by other communities across New York. Ogdensburg's population declined 8.6 percent between 1990 and 2000, and 14 percent of its residents are living in poverty. Ogdensburg's unemployment rate is 7 percent, one of the highest in the state. Once a thriving commercial port and manufacturing base, over half of Ogdensburg's developable waterfront is made up of known or suspected brownfields. Dramatic declines in business activity have reduced the tax revenues, further straining the city's ability to maintain its aging infrastructure.



### Assessment Grant

New  
2004

\$20,000 for hazardous substances  
\$180,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Ogdensburg for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances funds will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II assessments at a city-owned vacant building, once the site of a drycleaning business that is suspected of being contaminated. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II assessments on three vacant waterfront parcels along the St. Lawrence River that were contaminated during previous use as a tank farm and terminal. Funds also will be used for community involvement and for cleanup planning. Once cleaned up, part of the waterfront will be turned into a public park allowing access to the river.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team

212-637-4314

[http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/  
brownfields/](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfields/)

Grant Recipient: Ogdensburg, NY  
315-393-7150

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.